



**State of Delaware
Office of the Governor**

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Program To Pay For National Guard Life Insurance

Minner, Markell, Schwartzkopf, Denn Endorse Initiative To Support Citizen Soldiers

Dover – Governor Ruth Ann Minner and State Treasurer Jack Markell, together with state Representative Pete Schwartzkopf and Insurance Commissioner Matt Denn, Wednesday unveiled a proposal for the state to reimburse life insurance premiums for Delaware National Guard members on active duty.

The proposal would create a fund to provide reimbursement for the life insurance premiums paid by guard members who participate in the Servicemen's Group Life Insurance Program. Legislation to create the fund will be pre-filed by Rep. Schwartzkopf.

"This is the next in a series of steps we have taken to provide for those brave Delawareans who are leaving their jobs and families to serve our country abroad," Gov. Minner said. "While they are gone, the challenges faced by their families here at home are tremendous. We hope this will ease the burden, if only a little."

"The members of our National Guard work daily to ensure our life, liberty and pursuit of happiness. It is time that our state honored their commitment by insuring their lives for their loved ones," said Treasurer Markell, who drafted the legislation. "Paying for life insurance should not be an obstacle for families who are already putting their lives at risk for us. The men and women who serve our country have answered the call of our nation. It is time we take action to provide the necessary financial support for their families."

"I am honored to be the prime sponsor of this legislation," Rep. Schwartzkopf said. "Helping Delaware's military families has long been a goal of mine. It is my expectation that all 62 members of the General Assembly will sign on before the bill comes for a vote,"

Commissioner Denn said, "The federal government is proposing to increase the benefit package available to Guard members through the Servicemen's Group Life Insurance as well as the federal death benefit payout. This premium initiative completes the assistance package for families to get life insurance."

Markell said he has devoted a section of its website, <http://www.state.de.us/treasure/milmoney.shtml>, to help military families, especially those who have been recently deployed or re-deployed, understand and address the financial challenges they are facing.